

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 04028 110832Z

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /007 W

-----077018 110837Z /20

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FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1041

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 4028

LIMDIS

FOR HOLBROOKE FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (LEE, KUAN YEW), SN

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT

REF: A. STATE 218944, B. SINGAPORE 3898

1. AS YOU KNOW, PRIME MINISTER LEE WILL BE IN WASHINGTON FROM SEPTEMBER 29 TO OCTOBER 4 AND HOPES TO SEE SEVERAL CABINET AND OTHER HIGH-LEVEL USG OFFICIALS. REF A INFORMED US THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL BE UNABLE TO MEET WITH LEE, AND I UNDERSTAND THAT THE TIMING IS NOT GOOD FOR SOME OF THE OTHER APPOINTMENTS HE HAS REQUESTED. WHILE I UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEMS OF LINING UP SUCH APPOINTMENTS, THE FACT REMAINS THAT LEE IS THE FIRST ASEAN HEAD OF GOVERNMENT TO VISIT THE US AFTER THE US-ASEAN MEETINGS. HE IS A REASONABLE MAN AND WILL UNDERSTAND OUR SCHEDULING DIFFICULTIES,

BUT WILL EVEN SO EXPECT SOME OF THE WARMTH OF OUR WELCOME TO ASEAN MINISTERS TO BE EXTENDED TO HIM.

2. WHILE I HOPE I DO NOT EXAGGERATE THE AMBASSADOR'S
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ROLE IN SUCH A VISIT, I BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR ME TO BE IN WASHINGTON DURING THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT, AND I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR CONSENT TO MY TRAVEL. I MIGHT NOTE THAT MY FURTHER MOTIVES IN WANTING TO GO TO WASHINGTON ARE RELATIVELY INNOCENT. HAVING SEEN SOMETHING OF SINGAPORE AND HER LEADERSHIP, I WOULD FIND IT BOTH

EDUCATIONAL AND USEFUL TO MEET AGAIN WITH SOME OF THE
STATE AND OTHER USG OFFICIALS WHO FOLLOW THIS PART
OF THE WORLD.

3. SINCE I SHOULD BEGIN MAKING TRAVEL ARRANGMENTS
VERY SOON IF I GO TO WASHINGTON, I WOULD APPRECIATE
YOUR EARLY REPLY.
KNEIP

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NNN

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